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## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

14-5

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### **Saguaro National Park Seeking Volunteers for Buffelgrass Pulling in Rincon Mountain District**

Tucson, AZ - Saguaro National Park is looking for volunteers to assist pulling buffelgrass within the Rincon Mountain District (east) this Saturday, November 9. Interested volunteers should meet at the park's Rincon Mountain Visitor Center at 8:00 am. Please park in the Administration parking lot (first right turn after entering the park, follow the signs to the parking area just south of the visitor center parking lot). From the visitor center, park staff and volunteers will carpool a short distance to the work site and hike off trail to the buffelgrass location.

Buffelgrass is an invasive, non-native plant which threatens the Sonoran Desert. It has the potential to spread quickly, out-compete slower growing native vegetation, and carry fire into portions of the desert not adapted to fire conditions.

"Buffelgrass is our number one resource threat in Saguaro National Park and we can't fight it alone," according to Scott Stonum, Chief of Resource Management for Saguaro National Park. "It is hard work and we always appreciate volunteers willing to donate a morning to help us slow down the spread of this invasive grass."

This event is one of several buffelgrass weed whacking groups in the greater Tucson area which happen every second Saturday from from September through May. Please wear sturdy toe-closed shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring water and gloves (if you have them). Tools and gloves will be provided. Volunteers will be working with park staff, and will conclude the day's efforts around noon.

#### **Details:**

**What:** Volunteer to assist with removal of buffelgrass

**Where:** Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730

**When:** Saturday, November 9 at 8am-noon

For more information about buffelgrass, Beat Back Buffelgrass Day (January 25<sup>th</sup>), or other buffelgrass pull events around Tucson, please visit [www.buffelgrass.org](http://www.buffelgrass.org). For more information about Saguaro National Park and its fight against buffelgrass, visit <http://www.nps.gov/sagu/naturescience/invasive-plants.htm> or contact [Eric\\_Lassance@nps.gov](mailto:Eric_Lassance@nps.gov), 520 733 5187.